

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace pages 6 and 7, in their entirety, with the following rewritten text:

Figure 2 describes the pumping system that will provide the driving force to suction and transport the sludge in suspension along with the electrolyte solution, through the suction manifold (1) toward the solids-liquids separator system (3) and that will deliver sufficient pressure to this system (between 2 and 16 Bar) to permit the separation of the solids. The pumping system (2) consists of a peristaltic pump (13), with a capacity of flow between 1 and 30 cubic meters per hour, where the flexible hose of the suction manifold (1) is attached to the pump's suction line (12) by means of a sealed retaining flange. The suction line of this type of pump manages to achieve a negative suction power between 1 and 9 meters water column, which permits the removal of the anodic sludge from the bottom of the cell through the suction manifold (1). The pump's discharge line (14) is attached, also by means of a sealed retaining flange, to a flexible rubber hose (15) that is heat and high pressure resistant, which in turn is joined in the same way to a stainless steel piping (16) 316 L having exactly the same interior diameter as the rubber hose that feeds the solids-liquids separator (3). The flexible rubber hose (15)

permits the transportation of the solids dissolved in the electrolytic solution, resisting the hydraulic pressure exercised by the Separator against the discharge from the pump. The purpose of the stainless steel piping is not only to resist the pressure but also to sustain in the hydraulic line of flow all the elements of flow of the control system (6), translated to a pressure gage (17) with ranges of 0 to 20 Bar and an electrically controlled pressure switch (18). The pumping system (2) feeds the solids-liquids separator (3) anticipating the hydraulic pressure needed to produce the separation.

Figure 3 describes the solids-liquids separator that permits the semi-continuous separation of the solids contained in the electrolytic solution. The solids-liquids separator consists of a press filter (20) made up of polypropylene filtering plates (21) fed by the stainless steel piping of the pumping system, joined by a retaining flange (19) in the filter's head plate.

Figure 4 describes the suction manifold that consists of a nozzle (9) of elastomeric material, with a length between 100 and 800 millimeters, with an opening between 1 and 1,000 square centimeters that allows it to cover the entire area of the bottom of the electrowinning cell without needing to remove all the groups of cathodes from the cell and with the advantage of not causing the sludge to reenter the electrolytic solution. This nozzle is held by means of a thermal retaining mechanism (plastic welding of